

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T SECTO 04153

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S BILATERAL MEETING WITH FRG FOREIGN MINISTER,
APRIL 23, 1978

DEPARTMENT PASS TO AMEMBASSY BONN

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY VANCE MET WITH FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER FOR TWO HOURS ON APRIL 23 AT THE US AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN LONDON. THE SECRETARY BRIEFED GENSCHER IN GENERAL TERMS ON THE RESULTS OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW, FOCUSING PARTICULARLY ON SALT. THE TWO ALSO DISCUSSED ERW, THE NATO SUMMIT AND US-FRG RELATIONS. GENSCHER GAVE A PREVIEW OF WHAT THE FRG EXPECTED FROM BREZHNEV'S UPCOMING VISIT TO BONN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SECRETARY REVIEWED IN GENERAL TERMS THE RESULTS OF HIS TALKS IN MOSCOW WITH BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO. HE DISCRIBED BREZHNEV'S APPARENT GOOD HEALTH, NOTING THAT HE (BREZHNEV) WAS IN MUCH BETTER SHAPE THAN HE SEEMED TO BE A YEAR AGO. HE NOTED THAT GROMYKO TOO SEEMED TO HAVE RECOVERED COMPLETELY FROM HIS RECENT OPERATION. THE SECRETARY SUMMARIZED HIS NEGOTIATIONS ON OUTSTANDING SALT ISSUES AND NOTED THE SOVIET REACTIONS TO HIS RAISING THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA. HE REPORTED THAT HE HAD URGED THE SOVIET
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SIDE TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE LATEST WESTERN INITIATIVE IN MBFR. BREZHNEV SAID THE SOVIETS WOULD DO SO.

3. THE SECRETARY REPORTED THAT BREZHNEV HAD TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON THE ERW ISSUE. THE SOVIET LEADER SAID THE SOVIET SIDE WAS STUDYING WHAT SORT OF RESPONSE IT WOULD MAKE TO

PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT DEFERRING PRODUCTION OF THE WEAPON. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT OBVIOUSLY IF THE SOVIETS SIMPLY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY TOO WOULD NOT PRODUCE IT, THIS WOULD NOT BE A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE FOR US. HE SAID WE NEEDED TO CONSULT WITH EACH OTHER AND TO COME UP WITH OUR OWN OPTIONS AS TO WHAT WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE ALLIED POSITION TO TAKE IF THE SOVIET RESPONSE IS UNSATISFACTORY. THESE OPTIONS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AT THE NATO SUMMIT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO GENSCHER'S QUERY. SECRETARY VANCE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS HAD NOT RAISED WITH HIM ANY GERMAN OR BERLIN-RELATED ISSUE.

5. GENSCHER THEN REVIEWED AT SOME LENGTH THE FRG EXPECTATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN. HE SAID THE SOVIETS HAD ALREADY HANDED OVER THE DRAFT OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, CONTAINED LANGUAGE AND FORMULATIONS THAT WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE FRG. THE GERMANS WERE NOW CONSIDERING WHETHER TO SUBMIT A COUNTER-DRAFT. GENSCHER SAID HE EXPECTED THE SOVIETS TO FOCUS HEAVILY ON ECONOMIC COOPERATIONS, HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT EXPECT THE THREE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, NOW BLOCKED OVER THE BERLIN CLAUSE, TO BE SIGNED DURING THE VISIT. HE SAID THE FRG WOULD PRESS THE SOVIETS HARD ON DETENTE AND, IN THAT CONTEXT, WOULD RAISE THE SITUATIONS IN
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EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA.

6. GENSCHER WENT ON TO EMPHASIZE THE CLOSENESS OF US-FRG RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THEY REMAINED CLOSE. HE WAS URGING HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE BUNDESTAG AND IN THE LAENDER TO TRAVEL TO THE US TO STRENGTHEN THEIR PERSONAL TIES WITH THE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AND WITH THE CONGRESS. HE SAID THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE VITAL FOR THE ALLIANCE THAT THE UPCOMING NATO SUMMIT BE WELL PREPARED. THE ALLIANCE HAD TO GIVE EVERY IMPRESSION OF SELF-CONFIDENCE AND CLOSED RANKS AT THE WASHINGTON MEETING.

7. SECRETARY VANCE SAID HE AGREED ENTIRELY WITH GENSCHER'S VIEWS. HE SAID THAT GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE FRG WERE FUNDAMENTAL TO THE WELLBEING OF THE ALLIANCE. HE SAID HE WOULD DO ALL HE COULD AT ALL TIMES TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP. HE ENDORSED GENSCHER'S POSITION ON THE NEED FOR A SUCCESSFUL NATO SUMMIT. GENSCHER CLOSED BY STATING THAT HE TRUSTED THAT THE USG HAD NO RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE CURRENT EUROPEAN EFFORT TO STABILIZE THE MONETARY SITUATIONS. HE SAID THAT IF WE

HAD ANY QUESTIONS, THE SECRETARY HAD ONLY TO CALL HIM
FOR AN EXPLANATION. THE SECRETARY AGREED HE WOULD DO
SO IF NECESSARY AFTER CONSULTING WITH SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL
AND OTHER COLLEAGUES.

8. THE TWO MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED BRIEFLY DEVELOPMENTS
IN CHINA, JAPAN AND ITALY.

9. PRESENT AT THE MEETING ON THE FRG SIDE WERE GENSCHER,
VAN WELL AND BLECH; ON THE US SIDE -- SECRETARY VANCE,
AMBASSADOR BREWSTER AND ANDERSON.
VANCE

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